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VIEW FROM THE MAST SERIES

Personal artifacts from our author

MICHAEL DIXON McKEE AND **WILLIAM MICHAEL McKEE...ANOMALIES**

By

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

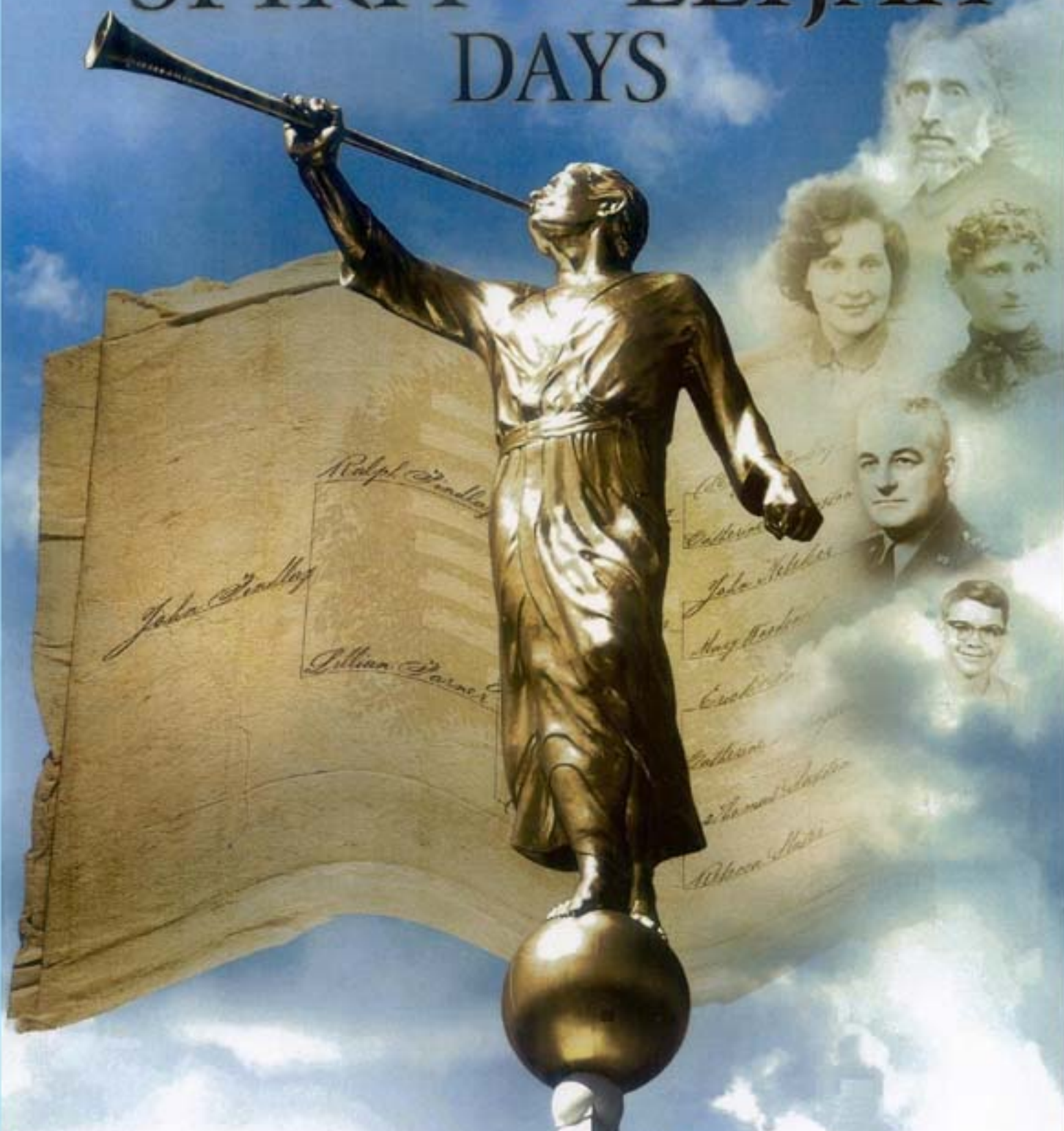
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Every once in awhile I run across these family history research anomalies and by checking my fellow researcher's family trees I can see many of you are struggling with these two families. I am speaking of the Michael Dixon McKee and wife; Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) and William Michael McKee and wife; Catherine (**McKEAN**) families. Both of these men were born almost the same years; both were married within a year, both lived in the same area of Jefferson County, Missouri. And it looks like they could have been brothers and married sisters.

However, make no mistake, they are two distinct individuals with two separate households and lived two separate lives. I am not doing you a favor by helping to clarify this convoluted record mess because...if you decide to fix your family tree you are in for a long hard effort.

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SPIRIT OF ELIJAH DAYS



"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6

Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee...Anomalies

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Every once in awhile I run across these family history research anomalies and by checking my fellow researcher's family trees I can see many of you are struggling with these two families.

I am speaking of the Michael Dixon McKee and wife; Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) and William Michael McKee and wife; Catherine (**McKEAN**) families.

Both of these men were born almost the same years; both were married within a year, both lived in the same area of Jefferson County, Missouri. And it looks like they could have been brothers and married sisters.

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LET'S COMPARE BOTH MEN...

William Michael McKee

The first place we can identify William is in the 1849 marriage record where he marries Catherine (**McKEAN**) on the 21st of September 1849 in Jefferson County, Missouri. This is followed by the 1850 census of District 42, Jefferson County, Missouri where he is listed as Michael McKee.

Michael Dixon McKee

We also find Michael Dixon getting married on the 3rd of February 1850 to Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) also in Jefferson County, Missouri. At first glance you could say he married twice but this is what got you into this mess in the first place. He is followed by the 1850 census of District 42, Jefferson County, Missouri where he is listed as Michael D. McKee followed by his wife Eliza E. probably her sister Nancy J. (**McKEAN**) and Martha A. (**McKEAN**) age 5.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THEIR WIVES...

Catherine (**McKEAN**) was born on 1 January 1831 and is living with her parents who happen to also be Eliza E. (**McKEAN**)'s parents; i.e., James Bell and Elizabeth (**STRUTHERS**) McKean of the 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860 and 1870 census of the Big River Township of Jefferson County, Missouri.

Elizabeth "Eliza" E. (**McKEAN**) was born circa 1832 hence making Catherine the older sister and the most likely to get married first...which she did.

In the 1840 census James is showing 3 daughters born between 1826-1839 this would include another daughter named Nancy. In the 1850 census even though several of the girls are married, James and his new wife; Sarah (**BAKER**) have listed ALL the children including Catherine age 18 and Elizabeth age 20. I believe they got the ages backwards.

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Concerning their mother Elizabeth (**STRUTHERS**) McKean, she may have died after the birth of Stephen in 1835.

According to a deed record posted on ancestry.com there is a statement alluding to her death before 1834, however, I question this since there is a female aged 30-39 in the 1840 census and James didn't marry Sarah (**BAKER**) in 1848.

On Catherine's death certificate the informant stated her parents were James S. McKean and Elizabeth Stuthers. This helped show me the way for my research and the rest is documented on ancestry.

Concerning Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee I believe they were brothers and married sisters. Several on ancestry.com believe Michael Dixon McKee is the son of William Seth and Mary Freeman (**McKAY**) McKee. Without investigating this family I can neither deny nor verify this conclusion.

1860 CENSUS COMPARISONS...

In the 1850 census neither family had any children at that point. However, the 1860 census puts it all together.

Michael Dixon McKee is listed as M. D. age 34 with wife; Eliza E. age 28 with the following children, William E. age 7, Franklin age 5; Mary A. age 4, George age 3. They are living near Hillsboro Post Office, Central Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

William Michael McKee is listed as Wm McKee age 31 with wife; Catherine age 29; with the following children, Martha E. age 7; James age 4; Harriet E. age 2. They are living near Grubville Post Office, Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

What we can draw for this census are the following facts.

- [1] M.D. stands for Michael Dixon.
- [2] M.D. is married to Eliza E. born 1832.
- [3] M.D. lived near Hillsboro.
- [4] M.D. had 4 children.
- [5] William was also named Michael as his marriage records and 1850 census validates.
- [6] William is married to Catherine born 1831.
- [7] William had 3 children.
- [8] William lived near Grubville.
- [9] Michael is living in Central Township; William is living in Big River Township

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1870 CENSUS COMPARISONS...

If I continue to do the comparisons all it will do is make you mad, however, for those of you who need further convincing, I will continue to offer further proof. Some of you are going to think I must be a smart aleck however, after 40 years of Family History Research and with close to 50,000 names in my Pratt Progenitor Papers tree, I have hone my skills to zero in on problems when it comes to anomalies in family history research.

Michael Dixon McKee is listed as M. D. age 43 with wife; Eliza age 37 with the following children, William E. age 17; D. T. age 15; Mary age 14; Geo. W. age 13; Green age 7; Samuel age 6 months. They are living near Hillsboro Post Office, Central Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

William Michael McKee is listed as Michael McKee age 41; Catherine age 39; Martha age 16; James age 14; Harriet age 12; Mary age 9; Susan age 5; Oscar and Austin age 1 month; Stephen age 2. They are living near Hillsboro Post Office, Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

What we can draw for this census are the following facts.

- [1] M.D. stands for Michael Dixon.
- [2] M.D. is married to Eliza born 1833.
- [3] M.D. lived near Hillsboro.
- [4] M.D. had 6 children.
- [5] William was also named Michael as his marriage records and 1850 census validates.
- [6] William is married to Catherine born 1831.
- [7] William had 8 children.
- [8] William lived near Hillsboro.
- [9] Michael Dixon is living in Central Township; William is living in Big River Township

1880 CENSUS COMPARISONS...

Michael Dixon McKee is listed as M.D. aged 52; Eliza E. age 48; with the following children, Dock F. age 24; George W. age 23; Seth G. age 16; Cora E. Power listed as a daughter age 7. They are living in Valle Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

William Michael McKee is listed as Michl McKee age 51; Catherine age 49; Martha age 26; James age 24; Harriet age 22; Melinda age 18; Susan age 15; Stephen age 12; Austin age 10; Oscar age 8. They are living in Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

What we can draw for this census are the following facts.

- [1] M.D. stands for Michael Dixon.
- [2] M.D. is married to Eliza born 1832.
- [3] M.D. lived in Valle Township, Jefferson County.
- [4] M.D. had 4 children.
- [5] William was also named Michael as his marriage records and 1850 census validates.
- [6] William is married to Catherine born 1831.
- [7] William had 8 children.

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[8] William lived Big River Township.

[9] Michael Dixon is living in Valle Township; William is living in Big River Township

If you continue tracking both of these families, you will discover nowhere in any documents is Catherine listed as Eliza, Elizabeth or what we can conclude to be a middle name. When she died her informant put an E. initial on her death certificate but I hold no credence to its validity.

It appears Michael Dixon McKee died on 8 June 1889 and is buried in the Harverstick Cemetery, Jefferson County, Missouri.

The last place I can place his wife; Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) McKee is when she filed for a Civil War Pension Application on 6 January 1890. If these people are of interest in your research, you should order that application.

In pursuit of Eliza's death date, I checked each of her children in the 1900 census to see if she was living with them and could not locate her.

Therefore, it appears she died 1890-1900 in Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri, United States.

Don't get over jealous and think the Eliza J, McKeen whom died 9 January 1896 in Saint Louis is our girl, remember Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) McKee died a **McKEE** not a McKeen. Posting unvalidated web information is the kind of tricks that got your tree in such a mess.

Concerning William Michael McKee, he died on 24 January 1894 in Benton Township, Crawford County, Missouri, United States [which is a guess since that was where his wife was living] and is buried in the Lick Creek Cemetery, Cuba, Benton Township, Crawford County, Missouri, United States.

William Michael McKee, his wife and some of their children are buried in the same cemetery.

When I see misinformation being copied from one tree to another, I can understand why so many people who visit ancestry.com get angry and confused. It appears 20 to 30 trees have the wrong information about these people and I consider it my responsibility to help clarify these falsities and at least give help to those who really would like to know the truth.

In fact, the McKee and McKean families are not even remotely connected to my tree. However, I was researching Martha Elizabeth (**McKEE**) born 15 August 1853 in Hillsboro, Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri, United States daughter of William Michael and Catherine (**McKEAN**) McKee when I noticed the confusion on ancestry.com.

Martha is part of my "**Isaac L. Harmon sr. and Descendants Volume 13 of the Pratt Progenitor Papers Series**", which is going to be posted for free at the following location...

<https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>

Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee...Anomalies

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All are welcome to browse and if you don't see a family of yours yet then email me and I'll let you know when it is scheduled for posting.

Read the article, "**Wrap it Up**" in the "View From the Mast" heading and it will share with you my reasons for posting 40 year of family history research.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
11 February 2015

BOY, THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY!!!

The book or article you have requested has been posted online for free. You can access these books by Mr. Pratt at the following... <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>

Read the attached article "**Wrap it Up**" for an explanation of each of these list categories. You can find what you have requested in the _____ group. Click on the title of the group and you will see all the books or articles listed under that category.

Click on the title of the book or article you desire for a full explanation of the item with contents. On the upper right hand column, are the words "Read Online" and PDF. All of these publications have been up loaded to the Internet Archive Digital Library repository and you can access them directly at the following... <https://archive.org/>

If you wish to read online click the read online link, if you wish to download this item click the PDF link. I suggest you download, giving you the opportunity to read and study the book, article or stories at your leisure.

My reasons for posting these items free online are explained in detail in the article "**Wrap it Up**". Glad to be of help, if you have further inquiries or need assistance please email Mr. Pratt at floydpratt59@gmail.com. Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Mr. Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.


Floyd started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others. Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors. It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Due to confusion with Pratt ancestors and not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 50,000 individuals in his database and has achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt created  **Pratt Publications**.

He began to offer to the public, a series of books titled, Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 11 volumes were sent to the Salt Lake Genealogical Library with 60 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt created the  **Genealogical Institute** to further the education of serious researchers.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

The **Genealogical Institute** offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the novice as well as advanced researchers, procedures Mr. Pratt has tried and tested to be of great value in family history research. These courses offer “a hands on” curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical techniques for tracking your family history. Many have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses.

Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, these courses are valuable tools for the family history researcher. Mr. Pratt has been informed by researchers his material found in his publications are recorded as source validation for such organizations as the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Upon completion of the educational courses from the **Genealogical Institute**, the graduate is awarded the *Master Accreditation* of the *Genealogical Institute*. (*M.A.G.I.*) Written in easy to read format with detailed explanations concerning various subjects of interest to family history researchers.

Mr. Pratt’s ability in family history research has amazed many experienced researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their “brick wall” in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize, this knowledge has been acquired over 40 years of research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task. Outside of Washington, Saint John’s Township, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery aka; misnamed the McAllister Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750’s and arrived in the Missouri Territory shortly after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Mr. Pratt recorded all the information off of the headstones including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related to Mr. Pratt or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book “**JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI**”©.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, talking to ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text.

What makes this book unique is based on several factors. First, it is the only book to report on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children. Second, this book contains a unique index, listing the individual and their father’s name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research should be based. No one has ever produced a body of work as unique and professional as this publication.

As the years moved on, Mr. Pratt became concerned about his 40 years of hard research work of various family histories. After a serious heart attack in 2012, Mr. Pratt decided to post his collective bodies of work on a website making them available to all interested researchers without compensation.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

After careful consideration, Mr. Pratt chose the website www.openlibrary.org. "Open Library" is a repository of millions of digital books available to the public for free.

There are two or more ways to access Mr. Pratt's publications.

If you open the website as listed above you click on the authors label on the left hand side and type Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. The website will open to his name, click his name and you will be directed to a listing with his name, picture and listing of presently 62 publications (2015).

You can either scroll the list or an easier way to reach his lists is at the following website...

<https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>

If you notice there are currently 9 lists or categories of books, article, stories and commentaries attributed to Mr. Pratt's publications.

These "Lists" are broken down as follows not necessarily in any order...

Vital Text Series This section covers public vital records. Including marriage records, deeds, census records, births, deaths, probate and indexes to public records. The counties of Missouri covered are as follows; Crawford, Washington, Franklin, Gasconade, St. François, Ste. Genevieve, and Jefferson counties.

Pratt Archive Collections This Collections comprises of a series of books containing cemeteries, family histories, biographies and various books by individual authors. There are several sections with this group... **Cemeteries** contain documented census information for various cemeteries in Crawford, Washington and Franklin Counties of Missouri. **Family Histories** are a collection of historical books concerning a group of a family or family names.

CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE The Cradle to Grave Profile (C2G) documents an individual's life from the cradle to the grave. All known research material concerning that individual is represented in a family group sheet format. These C2G profiles are presented to the researcher within a family group sheet detailing the husband, his spouses and all known children. Regardless of how many times the subject has been married, the researcher receives a full report on all known spouses and children for one low fee.

The Pratt Chronicles... The Pratt Chronicles series or what we call a Cradle to Grave (C2G) profile on steroids, is an in-depth comprehensive biography on one individual's life encompassing all known events, including historical factors from the time of their birth to their burial. These events are comprised of current music, inventions, movies, family births, deaths, marriages, legal documents, occupations, military participation, pictures, maps, mementos, world history, US history and economic conditions as they occurred on a yearly basis.

LITERARY HISTORY SERIES contains rare books concerning family history written by other authors...many who are deceased. These books were bought over the years and now enjoy the status of a rare find in the genealogical library.

VIEW FROM THE MAST... Over the years, Mr. Pratt has found it necessary to write articles concerning observations concerning various family history topics or what we call personal artifacts. These reports, articles and short stories are contained in this section labeled...View From the Mast.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Having a unique perspective from the top of mast on the sailing ship of discovery, Mr. Pratt has sailed through the waters of family history research for the last 40 years. These articles were designed to bring to the attention of family historians some unusual details he has witnessed during his research tenure.

Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Courses These courses were developed over the years to assist the novice as well as the professional in all manners pertaining to family history research. Written in easy to read format with detailed explanations concerning various subjects of interest to family history researchers.

Pratt Progenitor Papers Series This series is comprised of the famous Pratt Progenitor Papers. Starting with a known ancestor, this collection covers 2 or more generations of descendants. Each volume follows a particular individual and his descendants including children, grandchildren and spouses if known. Each of these volumes include legal and detailed information about a particular ancestor...many contain Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profiles. The order of reporting is as follows: 1st a Descendancy report on the primary, which is usually the husband; 2nd the primary or husband followed by all known wives, then 3rd the second generation comprising of all known children and their spouses, followed by additional subsequent generations of descendants. The **PPP** are light on speculation and assumptions, heavy on factual documentation offering research insights and suggestions.

ANCESTRAL FAMILY HISTORY OF... This book showcases a selected individual usually a living descendant, detailing their direct line ancestors as far as the research has been completed. This type of format is known as an enhanced pedigree chart. These books contain as many as 10 to 70 generations limited only by the number of ancestors of our primary individual. Whereas, pedigree charts list only the vitals on an individual, these books generate all known notes, articles, legal documents and if applicable, Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profiles on each and every direct line ancestor and their spouses.

When accessing Mr. Pratt's books on Open Library, click on the heading of each list and you will be directed to the books, articles, stories and commentaries contained in each section. Click on the title of the book or article you desire for a full explanation of the item with contents. On the upper right hand column, are the words "Read Online" and PDF. All of these publications have been uploaded to the Internet Archive Digital Library repository and you can access them directly at the following...
<https://archive.org/>

If you wish to read online, click the read online link, the book will open and if you wish to download this item click the PDF link in the box on right. We suggest you download, giving you the opportunity to read and study the books, articles, stories and commentaries at your leisure.

We, in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his research and dedication, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical research field.

In addition we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman
Genealogical Institute

Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. Pedigree Chart

1 page of 43 pages Pedigree

Page 1

Chart no. 1

